

Benson, Mary, Mrs.

[Benson, Frank Sherman, subject]

1908

March 19, 1908

Miss Mary Benson  
211 Columbia Heights  
Brooklyn N.Y.

Dear Madam:-

At a meeting of this Society, held March 11<sup>th</sup>, L. Rice made the statement that you desired to present the Benson numismatic library to the Society of such a gift would be acceptable, therefore the following resolution was presented and adopted.

Resolved: That the suggestion of Miss Mary Benson, sister of our late member, Mr. Frank Sherman Benson, be accepted, and that the thanks of the Society be tendered to her for the proposed gift of her father's library of numismatics.

This library will be a most welcome addition to the Society's collection of numismatic books and pamphlets, and, coming as a memorial of a member who was so highly esteemed by us all, will be doubly acceptable.

Very respectfully,  
Samuel B. Ricketts  
Recording Secretary



ORGANIZED 1858

INCORPORATED 1885

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
HISPANIC SOCIETY BUILDING  
156TH STREET, WEST OF BROADWAY  
NEW YORK

ARCHER M. HUNTINGTON,  
PRESIDENT.  
DANIEL PARISH, JR.,  
J. SANFORD SALTUS,  
VICE PRESIDENTS.  
BAUMAN LOWE BELDEN,  
REC. SECRETARY.  
HENRY RUSSELL DROWNE,  
COR. SECRETARY  
CHARLES PIERCE,  
TREASURER.  
S. WHITNEY DUNSCOMB, JR.,  
LIBRARIAN.  
WILLIAM POILLON,  
CURATOR.  
EDWARD D. ADAMS,  
NEWELL MARTIN,  
GEORGE BIRD GRINNELL,  
MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

American Insignia, comprising, first, decorations conferred by the United States Government; and by the different states and cities, for military service; second, the insignia—or badges of members and officers—of the various Military and Hereditary Societies, form a branch of American Numismatics which has not in the past received the attention it deserves.

A collection of such Insignia should be placed where it would be permanent and accessible to students of Numismatics and of American History.

Many of the societies which should be represented in such a collection have gone out of existence, and their insignia are now most difficult to obtain; others have adopted new designs, and the same difficulty confronts any effort to procure those that have been abandoned. In the future this difficulty will increase; other societies which are now active will die out, and as time goes on a collection of this kind will become of greater value and interest, and will be the means of preserving much numismatic history that might otherwise be lost.

In the Spring of 1900 this Society undertook the formation of a collection of this kind, as distinct from its collections of other American medals, and it now has, in addition to the principal Government decorations, the insignia of a majority of the more important and many of the smaller active societies, also of a number of societies which have ceased to exist. Within the narrow limits to which it is confined, this collection, probably, has no equal.

Being an incorporated body and the most important numismatic society in America, its collections are permanent; they will soon be displayed in its own fireproof building; it is, therefore, in a position to guarantee that any insignia that it may receive will not at any time go out of its possession and get into the hands of private parties. A large proportion of the insignia of military and hereditary societies in this collection were obtained direct from the respective societies, and it is hoped that societies, not now represented in the collection, which restrict the issue of their insignia to members only, will, in view of the facts stated above, waive that rule in favor of this Society.

This Committee was appointed for the purpose of carrying on this work in a thorough and systematic manner. Its success, has, so far, been most satisfactory, but there is still much to be accomplished, and it would earnestly request the co-operation of the members of the Society and of all others who are in sympathy with its efforts to preserve numismatic and historical records.

BAUMAN L. BELDEN,  
GEORGE F. KUNZ,  
J. SANFORD SALTUS,

*Committee on American Insignia.*

March 20<sup>th</sup>

214 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

Barman L. Pitten Esq.

Knows in Minneapolis, So. Cal -  
New York

My Dear Mr. Alden

I regret exceedingly that Dr. Lins  
should have made such a formal  
matter of what I want to have with  
reference to my Lins's Collection of minerals

books. I spoke to the Misses, who said  
we had offered them to a Library <sup>in Brooklyn</sup> ~~in Brooklyn~~, but  
it was possible they would not be specially  
wanted there. I asked her to find out in an  
informal way if the books would be acceptable  
to your Society - if the other offer was not  
accepted. Of course, having I heard  
from the Organization (a Long Island  
Historical Society) that the books would be  
most valuable & welcome, so of course they  
went to them. Refuting this misunderstanding  
when we Wm. L. Garrison Mary Benson